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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 956
By DeBerry J

A RESOLUTION to congratulate and honor the medical professionals, administration, and staff of Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center upon the occasion of their fiftieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those exemplary medical institutions and their remarkable personnel who, through their unwavering commitment to excellence, are credits to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such notable institution is Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center, which this year celebrates fifty years of providing exceptional health care services to the children of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in the last fifty years, Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center, a teaching facility for the University of Tennessee at Memphis, has steadfastly fulfilled its mission to offer "high quality coordinated programs of patient care, education, research and advocacy and to provide leadership throughout Methodist Healthcare in pediatric healthcare delivery."; and

WHEREAS, Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center was founded in 1952 by The Le Bonheur Club, a sewing organization which was established in 1923; and

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WHEREAS, the philanthropic member's of the sewing club were asked in the 1940s by local Memphis pediatricians to start a children's hospital in Memphis; the remarkable women of the Le Bonheur Club agreed and went on to raise \$2.5 million, sew hospital gowns for patients, name the hospital, operate the elevators, serve as volunteers, drive children to their doctors' appointments, and gain the support of the Memphis community; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Le Bonheur Club are still an active and vital part of Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center; last year, club members raised more than \$565,000 to renovate the Emergency Department and served more than 1,500 volunteers hours in the hospital as well as served on hospital and fundraising boards and as ambassadors for the medical center within the community; and

WHEREAS, on June 15, 1952, then Memphis Mayor Watkins Overton officially opened Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center; during the formal ceremony, the Mayor, Le Bonheur Club representatives, local pediatricians, and American Academy of Pediatrics representatives tied keys to balloons and sent them skyward to signify that the doors to Le Bonheur would never be closed to children in need; and

WHEREAS, the Mid-South's premier pediatric medical facility, the Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center encompasses a service area which includes portions of Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky, and Alabama and accepts referrals for children from across the United States and many foreign countries; and

WHEREAS, a not-for-profit institution, the Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center treats more than 100,000 children each year on an inpatient and outpatient bases and has 225 beds and 42 pediatric sub-specialties; and

WHEREAS, a division of Methodist Healthcare, the Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center is governed by a board of volunteer citizens and has a staff of 500 outstanding medical professionals who work on a daily basis to deliver the highest level of patient care; and

WHEREAS, committed to caring for the children of the Mid-South, the Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center provides advanced and state-of-the-art services in critical care, surgery, transplantation, rehabilitation, neurological disorders, allergy and immunology, nephrology, and urology; the medical center operates the region's only pediatric Intensive Care Unit and fully staffed Pediatric Emergency Department; and

WHEREAS, the Traditional Care Unit, at the Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center, is the first of its kind in Tennessee, providing care for technology-dependent children and training for the children's families; and

WHEREAS, to encourage and promote effective parenting, the development of healthy children, and to prevent child abuse and neglect, the Le Bonheur Center for Children and Parents provides a variety of community-based services dedicated to strengthening families by providing them with education, training, and support; and

WHEREAS, formerly Le Passees Children's Rehabilitation Services, the medical center's Children's Foundation Research Center of Memphis is a 30,000 square foot laboratory and research center, where innovative research by the Department of Pediatrics of the University of Tennessee at Memphis is leading to significant treatment and prevention of childhood diseases; and

WHEREAS, Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center has earned the prestigious distinction of being designated a Center of Excellence by the Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company, one of only seven in the country; and

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2002, Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center will commemorate their first fifty years with a birthday celebration, which will include a parade, carnival, department reunions, and a reenactment of the balloon ceremony; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is fortunate to have such an excellent resource as Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center; for fifty years, the hospital has conscientiously met the health care

needs of the citizenry of the Mid-South area, providing an exemplary level of care for its young and precious patients; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is privileged to recognize Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center for its countless contributions to the well-being of the young citizens of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and recognize Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary, commend its medical professionals, administrators, and staff on the outstanding quality of care they provide, and extend to them our best wishes for all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.